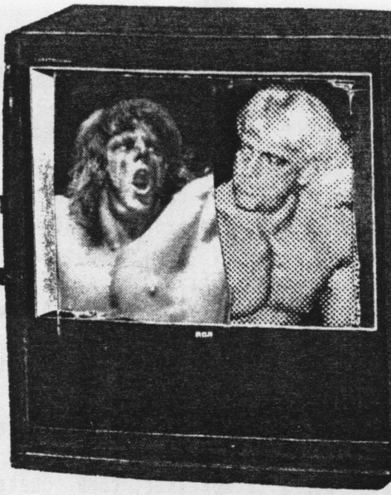
MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

WRESTLEMANIA VI SPECIAL EDITION

VOL. 2, NO. 40 APRIL 2-8



At Wrestlemania VI

1-2-3: WARRIOR WINS WWF WORLD TITLE

TORONTO----In one of the most dramatic showdowns in pro wrestling history, The Ultimate Warrior rolled away from a Hulk Hogan legdrop and scored a Warrior splash to win the WWF world heavyweight championship in 22:47 Sunday at WRESTLEMANIA VI before an announced 67,678 at the Skydome here.

The match, which featured 12 two-counts and intense drama, including virtually every trademarked false ending, ended the second year-long reign of Hogan as WWF champ and climaxes a three-year rise in the WWF career of Jim Hellwig.

The first five minutes portrayed a test-of-strength standoff between Hogan and Warrior. Hogan scored two elbows, a package, a clothesline and backbreaker for four near-falls and at the 11:25 mark, scored a 2 5/6 count with a suplex. But a Warrior rally at 12:05 led to near-falls on Hogan with clotheslines and a suplex before Ult went to a bearhug. Hogan punched his way out of the hug at 17:50 before a crisscross that saw Warrior crash into referee Dave Hebner.

While Hebner was down, both Hulk and Ult delivered finishing moves and counted their own falls. As Hebner finally revived, he counted a slow 2 15/16 on Warrior before a Hogan rollup for a two. With action outside, Hogan was posted at 20:55, then Warrior rolled him in for a gorilla press at 21:50 but Hogan kicked out on two. At 21:50, Hogan began his Superman comeback and scored with the foot in face but Warrior rolled away from the legdrop and splashed Hogan for the dramatic victory at 22:47.

In an emotional aftermatch, Hogan tearfully presented both the world and intercontinental belts to Warrior and the two embraced, reminiscent to the finish of the Pedro Morales-Bruno Sammartino match of years past. MATCH RATING: PINFALL!....even though these are far from the best technical wrestlers ever, this was probably the best they could offer and is one which will be replayed for its crowd heat, intensity and drama for years to come.

Andre Turns

AX, SMASH REGAIN WWF TAG TITLES

In a predominantly brawl affair, Demolition used their patented doubleteam crash from the top ropes onto Haku to regain the WWF tag team titles for a third time over the Colossal Connection in 10:16.

The pin was set up when Haku missed a karate kick and connected with Andre the Giant, who became helpless in the ropes. Ax and Smash then worked over Haku for the setup. Andre never officially entered the ring.

Afterward, Bobby Heenan chastised Andre and slapped him, which led to Andre destroying both Heenan and Haku, amid huge cheers from the Skydome. MATCH RATING: BOMB-PLUS....the aftermatch turn of Andre might have elevated it to a RESTHOLD.

'MANIALINES

BEST LINES - STEVE ALLEN: 1) "I've never heard so many boos & catcalls. If I'd had that much booze, I'd call a few cats." 2) "I liked the Rhythm but I didn't particularly care for the Blues." 3) "I like Jimmy Snuka 'cause he's wearing my wife's underwear." 4) "Jimmy Snuka is so ugly, a vampire once flew into his bedroom & bit his bedpost." 5) "I haven't been this excited since I found out Pee Wee Herman was straight."

JESSE VENTURA: 1) "A combined weight of 465 pounds? You tellin' me Rhodes only weighs 200?" 2) "I've got Paul Newman's eyes, Kirk Douglas' chin & Robert Duvall's haircut." 3) (On Hogan/Warrior): "Let the 2 goody two-shoes throw out the rulebook & get nasty."

GORILLA MONSOON: "Brutus always looked like a hand grenade went off in his pocket."

GENE OKERLUND: "Heenan, you're tougher to get along with than a mother-in-law on a weekend visit at my house."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - VENTURA: 1) (On Hogan/Warrior) "At least it wasn't a Mike Tyson/Don King type of affair." 2) "Maybe Hulkamania will live forever."

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

CROWD ENTHUSIASM	3.9
ANNOUNCING	4.0
QUALITY OF MATCHES	2.3
TV PRODUCTION	4.5
OVERALL EXCELLENCE	4.4
TOTAL RATING	19.1

WRESTLEMANIA WRAPUP

RICK MARTEL D. KOKO B. WARE: After Martel attacked, Koko scored with a flying cross body block, 2 dropkicks & a clothesline but Martel rallied with heavy artillery & a Boston crab try at 3:30. Koko came back with a couple of near falls but missed a flying move and Martel scored with the crab for the win at 5:30. RESTHOLD...marginal opener.

EARTHQUAKE TENTA D. HERCULES: Moments in this one sounded like the Skydome faithful were in prayer. Mostly tests of strength but Herc scored with 5 clotheslines & finally knocked Tenta to one knee but Herc was hit with two elbows when he went for a backbreaker, then 'Quake scored with an aftershock and pin at 4:44. BOMB.

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE D. CURT HENNIG: Hennig sold like crazy in first 4 minutes until Genius hit Beefcake with his scroll at 4:12. Hennig went for power moves and scored a 2 1/2 count at 5:00, then slapped Beefcake. But Brutus rallied to boomerang Perfect into the ringpost & scored an anticlimactic pin at 7:50. Then, as Poffo stole the clippers, Brutus spirited them & Lanny away, put Poffo to sleep & cut more of his hair. DRAW-PLUS...I just wish the main finish had been better.

RODDY PIPER VS. BAD NEWS BROWN (Double Countout): Mostly a brawl after Piper tried a quick cross body block. It went outside at 6:22 with Bad News posting his own fist and Roddy missing with a chair before the agents had to separate the two. Double countout at 6:50. BOMB-PLUS.

HART FOUNDATION D. BOLSHEVIKS: After a hilarious Steve Allen spot parodying Russian songs in the Skydome bathroom w. Boris & Nikoli, the Harts broke up the anthem & scored with the Hart Attack on Zhukov to win in 18 seconds. DRAW-PLUS. Why? It was short, sweet & squashing as it should have been.

BARBARIAN D. TITO SANTANA: Tito used a lot of good wrestling & scored with two dropkicks & a flying forearm but Bobby Heenan put Barb's foot on the ropes on the pin try. Barb then clotheslined Tito into the ropes, then did the same off the top for the fall at 4:31. RESTHOLD-PLUS....only on Barbarian's foot in the face & finish did the crowd pop.

[MIXED TAG] DUSTY RHODES/SAPPHIRE D. RANDY SAVAGE/SHERRI MARTEL: After surprising Randy & Sherri w. Elizabeth, Sapphire goes for an airplane spin & slam & slaps Randy at 2:42. Savage scored two near-falls on Dusty just before the 5-min. mark, then Randy crashed on Dusty's neck w. the sceptre & Sherri splashed Dusty for a 1-count at 5:50. But Dusty tagged in Sapph, who rallied & at 7:30, Liz bumped Sherri over Sapphire's rump & Sapph rolled up Sherri for the pin. DRAW....wrestling wasn't great but this match did what it was supposed to do. But Liz with Dusty? I need Kaopectate.

ORIENT EXPRESS D. ROCKERS (Countout): Good speed here but neither team showed all its stuff. Rockers scored double Sting fly over top at 1:10 but Fuji clobbered Janetty & posted him at 2:10. Both teams traded offense but after scoring double backdrop on Tanaka, Rockers readied a double Bombs Away when Fuji hit Marty w. cane. Janetty grabbed the cane & was about to smack Fuji but Sato sneaked up & threw salt in Marty's face & Janetty was counted out at 7:42. DRAW-PLUS.

JIM DUGGAN D. DINO BRAVO: Duggan scored atomic drop at 1:27 & Bravo an inverted drop at 2:14. But Duggan rallied clotheslines before skirmishing w. Earthquake. Jimmy Hart tosses 2x4 to Bravo but as ref argues w. Tenta, Duggan grabs 2x4 and creams Dino for the pin at 4:15. But 'Quake scored his second victim w. 3 aftershocks on Duggan. BOMB-PLUS.

TED DiBIASE D. JAKE ROBERTS (Countout): Oddly, the crowd began a wave about 5:00 in & appeared more into the wave than the match. But this one was well-booked. At 7:42, Ted piledrove Jake & went for the sleeper at 8:45, following w. 2 near-pins. Jake escaped and rallied for 3 clotheslines but Virgil pulled Jake out. As Jake slammed Virgil, Ted cinched the sleeper from behind but Jake shoved DiBiase into the post. However, Virg rolled Ted in first for the countout win at 11:54. But after, Jake decks Ted, grabs the bills & gives them to the crowd. Then, he DDTs Ted & shoves a C-note in his mouth. POWERSLAM....classic Jake Roberts match.

BIG BOSSMAN D. AKEEM: DiBiase reappears to clothesline, slam & cream Bubba beforehand. It took Bubba 1:10 to recover & power Akeem all over the ring before his side saltow for a pin in appx. 1:47 (they never rang a bell). RESTHOLD-PLUS.

RHYTHM & BLUES/"HUNKA, HUNKA, HUNKA HONKY LOVE": In the second verse, Honky & the backup girls got out of tempo with the music & Greg's mike wasn't up on his solo but it was okay. Then, the Bushwackers showed up masquerading as vendors, ran out R&B and destroyed their guitars.

RICK RUDE D. JIMMY SNUKA: Heavy power moves in this one. Snuka missed the flying headbutt at 3:36 and Rude scored with the Rude Awakening for the win at 3:51. Not a bad match but Steve Allen's lines were even better! DRAW.

'MANIA MEMOS

This is what we mean by a one-match show, in that virtually everything on this card was inconsequential to the finish. And stars with strong workrates don't deliver it all to keep from stealing the topliners' thunder. By the time Hogan-Warrior was over, did you even remember Martel wrestled Koko in the opener?....Best pictures of the day: 1) the closeups of Hogan and Warrior on the mat after the double clothesline and 2) Hogan's emotion at the end....Bad audio problems in the first 10 minutes. The crowd noise far overrode the announcers until midway through the opener. Two other glitches: Howard Finkel counting the crowd down overrode portions of Vince's open narration and interview audio was heard when Barbarian was coming to the ring....Even with the massive enthusiasm for the end, there were some deadly silent moments in the Skydome in a few matchups.

Steve Allen does not appeal to a young demographic but for one who grew up with him, I loved his stuff, particularly him laughing at the end of Rude-Snuka but Rona Barrett??? Didn't do much for me....The major question: is this the final Hogan reign? He doesn't need a belt to draw and in my view, it's better for him to go out as champion at the peak of popularity....A tourney for the Intercontinental belt? I've grown to hate tourneys. I guess and early speculating on the LARRY KATZ SHOW Saturday night was that Dusty would be the favorite for it or to become the King....If you didn't get the show, Vince announced the L.A. Coliseum officially as the WRESTLEMANIA VII site....In my view, this was the best of the six WRESTLEMANIAs, even though it had its weak moments. But that main event was as well-produced as any since Steamboat-Savage in '87 and it's one match I'll watch again. FSB.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

"TAG TEAM" PILOT TO COST NEAR-RECORD $2.5 MILLION

LOS ANGELES---The Disney-Indie Productions pilot TAG TEAM, starring Jesse Ventura and Roddy Piper, is costing $2.5 million for the one-hour episode.

The Piper/Ventura match vs. the Orient Express, shot in Los Angeles March 25, is strictly for the show's opening sequences.

According to Hollywood television/film analyst Chris Crosby, the pilot is "aimed for an 8:00 audience on ABC, primarily to under-20 males." The episode is expected to take two weeks to shoot.

"Violence will be kept to a minimum," said Crosby, "and they'll use wrestling holds to subdue the bad guys." Piper and Ventura play wrestlers turned cops.

Bob McCullough, former FALCON CREST director, created the series, and ex-MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE director Paul Krasny is directing TAG TEAM.

IT'S OFFICIAL: HOGAN-GORDY FOR WWF/JAPAN SHOW

TOKYO---Hulk Hogan will face Freebird Terry Gordy in the topline match for the WWF/All Japan/New Japan show here April 13.

After three months of squabbling over Hogan's opponent, the deal was struck two weeks ago. A last-minute push by WWF emissary J.J. Dillon for a Hogan-Dusty Rhodes match failed.

Gordy is not expected, as earlier speculated, to sign a WWF deal after the match.

GOOD NEWS FOR ARN: SURGERY NOT NEEDED

ATLANTA---While still guardedly watching his condition, MATWATCH has learned NWA TV champion Arn Anderson will not require surgery to repair nerve damage on his arm and shoulder.

Anderson, who was injured during the WRESTLE WAR '90 match vs. Rick & Scott Steiner, had faced the prospect of being idled a year after feeling numbness in the shoulder area.

But the veteran NWA star is expected, with doctors' approval, to return to action as early as late May. However, he is not expected to wrestle on the May 19 pay-per-view show in Washington, D.C.

MATWATCH HOTLINE (205) 826-RING

Calling hours: 12 Noon to 12 Midnight (Eastern time) Monday through Saturday. 7 p.m. to Midnight Sundays. If you have news info, please leave it on the answering machine.

OTHER VOICES

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week, we begin an irregular feature to offer detailed alternative views to editorials and columns in MATWATCH. Freddie Fargo is a former columnist for PRO WRESTLING DIGEST and this week, offers a response to our recent columns on drugs in pro wrestling.)

By FREDDIE FARGO
Guest Columnist

I'm sure that the sad irony of the Superstar Billy Graham has touched us all equally. There are a few points, however, that I feel are in order concerning Part Two (of the series on drugs).

Again, I have no qualms with the general topic. The gist of the item was well thought out, well-written, timely and worthy of discussion. We're all too aware of the damage that has been done to this sport due to the rampant use of drugs. I couldn't agree more with the presentation of the theme and I commend it.

My confusion lies with the fact that someone, somewhere, is giving Michael Hayes a raw deal. Are you insinuating that in a "company wide" drug test, only "P.S." failed? Or, is the real story that Mr. Hayes was handpicked to serve as "the example?" If this is the case, I submit that an injustice has been done to Michael and that he is owed an apology by the NWA.

If, on the other hand, Hayes was the only posi-test found, I'll climb into a ring for a handicap match against Terry Gordy, Stan Hansen and Eric Embry...I'll have my wrists tied, ankles shackled and allow them to blindfold me. That's how sure I am that that never happened. I hasten to point out also, that if only one man in the NWA failed, it renders your commentary on extensive drug use null and void, though I believe your point to be valid.

The editorial seemed to take a decided twist with the phrase, "now the Hayes case." From that point, it seemed as though Michael was given a one-man indictment, trial and guilty-as-charged verdict. The extremely vague evidence that you presented in print would not suffice to convict in any court of law. You also stated that you hope Michael's difficulty was short-lived. It was unclear as to by "difficulty," you meant his suspension or his insinuated drug problem. If you meant the former, I share your thought. If it is the latter, I think you made a bad choice of words. Unless you have been privy to information you chose not to print, you displayed poor judgment in your condemnation of Hayes, based on what you did print. If you withheld information as a matter of good taste, I apologize for my statement and applaud you. By the same token, if you didn't, you also owe Michael an apology if for nothing more than a poor choice of words.

In one paragraph, you endorse testing, claiming "when a company is paying an employee a five or six-figure salary to perform a service it has the right to expect premium performance for its finances." While agreeing with your second point to the max, I condemn the employment of these tests...as far as I'm concerned, this is a most blatant violation of constitutional privileges.

In my career in the music distribution industry, I've had several hundred employees. Any time I felt an employee's wage vs. performance situation was not to my benefit, I called him on the carpet. I would explain his deficiencies and that if they were not rectified, he would be shown the door. If they weren't, he was. Plain and simple. I would never think of insulting someone by asking him to perform the demeaning task of (urinating) into a bottle. And Lord have pity on the first man that asks me to do the same. I guarantee you his shoes will be much wetter than my bottle...and I have deadly aim.

MATWATCHING

IT'S NOT % BUT HOW MANY: Expect Titan Sports to talk more about total numbers of buys for WRESTLEMANIA rather than buy-rate percentages. Part of it is to diffuse the outrageous predictions of 10% in trade magazine stories.

AND THERE'S MORE...: To a degree, Titan is right to emphasize the cumulative total, for one reason: as the pay-cable universe increases, percentages are sure to decline. Dollars made depend on total subscriptions. Percentages are basically a comparative measuring tool for shows with differing numbers of pay homes available (i.e.: a show with a 6% buy-rate but only 5 million homes available will not make as much money as a show with a 4% buy-in from a 10 million home universe.

EXTRA, EXTRA!: Lots of coverage almost daily on WM6 in the Toronto papers. The Star's Susan Karasner questioned whether Hulk Hogan was to be dethroned by the "biggest warrior of all: demographics."

ARSENIO'S WARRIOR: Ultimate Warrior's appearance on ARSENIO HALL provided the expected WM6 boost but I couldn't help thinking when Ult chased Arsenio out of the studio, is this what it's all really come to?

THEIR IDOL: Austin Idol and Paul Orndorff began their best-of-three weekend series at UMBC in Maryland last Thursday night with a double DQ and brawl up the aisle. Only about 300 showed. The two rematched in Washington Township Friday but the big one was for Joel Goodhart Saturday night in Philly with Paul E. Dangerously managing Idol.

MORE PAUL E.: First this, then I'll tell you about his NWA situation. Dangerously worked a Florence AL indie card with Tom Prichard before 115 for Lynn Weaver March 27. Stories are this will probably be Weaver's last show. Crowds just are not turning out to see the ex-CWF guys.

THE DECISION: Attorneys are looking over a WCW proposal to bring back Dangerously. If the deal is approved this week, Paul E. will probably return by mid-April.

OTHER TALENT: No firm decisions have been made, as of the end of last week, on some of the new talent names floating as NWA candidates. Mark & Chris Youngblood are two of the most recent names mentioned.

HOWEVER...: MATWATCH has been told by key sources a proposal has been struck to keep Jim Cornette, Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane in the NWA, though tensions have been strong between that camp and the office in recent weeks. But expect a plan to make Bobby a Horseman to be aborted.

CWA/ATLANTA: A deal has been cut to return the Memphis studio show to the WVEU SUPERSTARS block in Atlanta. The last two months, Atlanta has been stuck with the CWA syndie show which is mostly lesser USWA matches.

DEATH OF SOUTHERN: Southern Championship Wrestling died at tapings last Sunday in Griffin. The transformation to Georgia All-Star Wrestling was made, in part, with an angle in which SCW host Tim Dix becomes hot at Joe Pedicino taking over as emcee. In the next four weeks, Dix's role from ring announcer to manager provides some amusing moments.

THE UNTOUCHABLE: Al (Bounty Hunter) Green should be a hit and may be one from the GAS group eventually is scouted for a role (better than his old NWA job stint) in a bigger group. As "Al Knitti," Green carries a violin case as part of the Dixie Mafia.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: In upcoming NWA TV shows, expect the following feuds to develop: Eddie Gilbert-Samu, Joel Deaton Tommy Rich and an intensifying of Steiners vs. Doom.

APRIL 14: The third hour of that 3-hour WCW special edition Saturday after next includes a 2-out-of-3 fall Freebirds vs. Rock & Roll Express with Michael Hayes expected back.

CAPITAL COMBAT UPDATE: The only significant update on the NWA pay-per-view May 19 is a hair vs. hair match between Paul Ellering and Teddy Long, which should be cute because of that thick moptop of Ellering's. Conflicting reports on that evening's Flair-Luger match: one has it definitely in a cage, another that it won't be. Gang, after the last 2 weeks, I won't begin to offer a guess. But Terry Funk will ref it.

CANTON CAPERS: NWA's TBS tapings in Canton OH drew about 2,200 in a 4,000-seat building. Mark Callous was back but Teddy Long won't handle him. Expect Paul E. to get mark if Paul E. gets back.

SOUTHEASTERN UPDATE: On that Chattanooga area show which has been nicknamed Wrestling's Funniest Home Videos, The Superstar (not Bill Eadie) beat Chance Myers for the S.E. title in a cage March 23 in Dalton GA. Crazy Luke Graham Jr. & Moondog Max are the new tag champs.

BASIC TRAINING: Rocky Mountain Wrestling Association will begin a training camp soon for prospective grapplers. Mike George is the head coach. The cost is $1,000 with $500 to be paid in advance and the other $500 two weeks later. For details, write: RMWA, 4150 E. Iowa Ave., Suite 100, Denver CO 80222, or call (303) 758-7519.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: David Leehy and Virginia Wrestling Association will host a fan get-together Aug. 24-26 in Richmond VA. Write David at P.O. Box 34142, Richmond VA 23234 to get details.

NETWORKING: Just heard Jon Arezzi's WNYG PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT with Superstar Billy Graham and Bruno Sammartino. Much the same story Graham's told around the horn about steroids, only a much longer and detailed version. Also, thanks to Rich Daniel and the gang at WMET's INSIDE THE SQUARED CIRCLE in Gaithersburg MD for a wild show last week.

LATE ANNUALS: Those of you who ordered the 1989 ANNUAL late, here's why the delay: I arrived at the printer to find covers of LAST year's annual printed, so they all had to go back. By the time you read this, I should have mailed.

FLYING HIGH: We're told one of the best flying moves ever occurred on the March 24 LUCHA LIBRE/Galavision TV show by Jerry Estrada vs. El Satanico. It was a hair match & you tape traders ought to seek it.

TV TEMPO

March 26-April 1

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(WWF/USA) - [ULTIMATE CHALLENGE]: Ted DiBiase d. Terry Taylor; Bubba Bossman d. Boris Zhukov; Rhythm & Blues win squash, then attack Bushwackers w. guitars; BRO. LUV w. Earthquake Tenta/Jimmy Hart; Kingfish Rhodes wins DQ over Randy Savage when Sherri Martel runs in but Sapphire/Dusty run Sherri out; FEATURE: Hogan-Warrior WM6 contract signing; Earthquake d. Ronnie Garvin; Andre/Haku d. Rockers by DQ when Demolition runs in. POWERSLAM.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Jim Duggan d. Bob Bradley; Bad News Brown d. Mark Ming; DiBiase d. Omar Atlas; Barbarian d. Jerry Monti; Rockers d. Black Knight/Black Bart; WM6 REPORT. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Roddy Piper d. Darryl Nickels; 'Quake d. Bob Allen; Demolition d. Conquistador/Mancini; ANGLE: Hart Foundation challenges WM6 WWF tag title winners; BRO. LUV: Savage/Sherri; Jake Roberts d. Black Knight; Orient Express d. Atlas/Dale Wolfe; Other winner: Curt Hennig. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA) - Steve Austin/Jeff Gaylord d. Frogman LeBlanc/Chico Torrez; Chris Adams/Matt Borne d. Dwayne Foster/James Rapp; John Tatum d. Ray Evans; ANGLE: Billy Travis claims to be better boxer than Buster Douglas. Jeff Jarrett comes out & the two spar before Terrence Garvin backjumps Jeff before Bill Dundee saves; S. Rockers draw vs. Chris Youngblood/Sheik Braddock. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Kevin Sullivan/Cactus Jack d. Bob Cook/Dennis Knight; FUNK'S GRILL: Sullivan/Cactus; Jimmy Garvin d. Tim Parker; Mike Rotunda d. British Battler; Butch Reed d. Road Warrior Hawk when Teddy Long hits Hawk w. loaded boxing gloves. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: Ranger Ross d. Robbie Idol; (From WWW): Hawk-Reed match; Eddie Gilbert d. Rick Fargo; Scott Steiner d. Parker Pappas; U.S. TAG TITLE: Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman d. Wild Samoans by DQ when Samoans shove Nick Patrick. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW: THE FINAL EPISODE) - ANGLE: Joe Pedicino announces he'll take over as host of new GA. ALL-STAR next week; Mr. Wrestling II d. Mike Winner; CLASSIC: Bruiser Brody vs. Dick Slater double COR/pullapart; Allen Horne d. Joe Bemiss; LOSER-LEAVE-GEORGIA: Mike Golden d. Mr. Atlanta when Big Daddy trips up Mr. A. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - ANGLE: Bob Dow & Mario Savoldi strip ICW tag titles from Lethal Weapons; The Mad Russians d. Evans/Allen; Iron Mike d. Mario Mancini; (FROM MEXICO): Lazertron/Bobby Bradley d. Bonzai/Nino Asenino; Superstar/Superboy d. El Chicano/Carlos Vega. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWA/SYND.) - Jarrett d. Jerry Lawler by DQ when Gaylord runs in; Mike Awesome d. Trailer; S. Rockers d. James/Dog of War; Dundee d. Rockin' Randy; Gaylord d. Evans; REPLAY: Lawler-Chris Champion brawl; Dirty White Boys d. Jordan/Steele; Brian Lee d. Sweet Daddy Falcone. RESTHOLD.

(PWF) - Lou Perez d. Coconut Kid; Tommy Rogers d. Wild Thing; Eric Embry d. Greg Labonci; Bounty Hunter I d. Terminator w. Ron Slinker's knucks; Dennis Knight d. Joe Padiero; Nasty Boys d. Bounty Hunter II/Bodyguard. Bounty II's mask comes partially off to reveal him as Tim Parker but Dallas Page didn't know who he was. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Tommy Rich/Johnny Ace draw vs. Samu/Cuban Assassin; WNN: Gordon Solie says Ole Anderson has a sick mentality; Cactus Jack d. Gilbert when Kevin Sullivan headcracks Eddie on ropes; FUNK'S GRILL: Terry returns to the PH with the Wild Samoans; NWA WORLD TAG TITLE: Steiners d. DOOM on reversal when Paul Ellering tells ref Teddy Long used loaded boxing glove on Rick to get pin. POWERSLAM.
[WCW]: Mike Rotunda d. Cuban A but Cactus Jack runs in after. Norman lets Abdullah the Butcher out of his "box" & Abby cleans house on Sullivan/Cactus w. boards, chairs, etc.; Gilbert d. Jimmy Garvin; (REPLAYS): 1) Pillman/Zenk reclaim U.S. tag belts from M Ex; 2) Animal-Simmons from last week; 3) (From WWW) end of Flair-Luger; Pillman/Zenk d. Zan Panzer/Fargo; (From NME): Wrecking Crew II d. Steiners by countout; FEATURE: Ross w. Sting in rehab; Road Warriors d. Cezana/Hacksaw Higgins; Cactus d. Chris Powers. DRAW...could have been higher but pacing was slow.

(CNWA) - Jason Anderson d. Skull Mason; Goldie Rogers d. Mike Lozanski; $500 CHALLENGE: Casey Houston/Brad Young d. Desiree Peterson/J.T. Stringer; Benkai Sazaki d. Akam Singh; Duke Myers d. Great Gama by countout. BOMB-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE/GALAVISION) - NWA MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE: El Dandy draw vs. Angel Azteca; 6-MAN: Dos Caras/Mil Mascaras/El Sicodelico d. Fabuloso Blondy (Ken Timbs)/El Policia de Los Angeles 2-3 falls, the final by DQ when Timbs hit the ref; HAIR MATCH: El Satanico d. Jerry Estrada. PILEDRIVER....with the final match a rare PINFALL!

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Italian Rockers d. Luke Graham Jr./Southeast Kimala by DQ; Chance Myers d. Invader; S.E. TV TITLE: Richie Dye d. Jimmy G. to win belt; The New Sensations (Kevin Catlin/Pat Armstrong d. Mauler Mays/Danny Marlow; Superstar d. Chaz Lane; ANGLE: Heels break open 5-lb. bag of dog food & Moondog/Graham/Superstar all eat some. Max then tries to force some into announcer J.C. Carson's mouth. BOMB-PLUS.

(PORTLAND) - [2 Wks. Ago]: PACIFIC NW TV TITLE: Scotty the Body d. Ricky Santana w. knucks to win belt; Curtis Thompson d. Spoiler; Bill Francis d. Moondog Moretti; Juicers/S. Rockers vs. Grappler/Brian Adams/Al Madril/Equalizer ends in wild brawl with everyone throwing garbage cans; FIESTA GARDEN: Adams/Grappler attack Juicers, piledrive Beetlejuice, tie his arms & legs, tape his mouth & threaten to throw him off a downtown bridge. POWERSLAM.
[Last Week]: Rip Oliver d. Moretti; Santana d. Spoiler but Grap/Adams attack Ricky before Juicers save; Scotty d. Francis by holding ropes; BOUNTY MATCH: Thompson d. Madril via over-top; Nord the Barbarian/Juicers vs. Grappler/Adams/Equalizer in progress as show ends; ANGLE: During interview, Nord chases Grappler off w. chair; FIESTA GARDEN: Oliver

challenges Adams to $2,000 arm wrestling contest. Grappler/Adams laugh but Oliver says "mystery man" will armwrestle Brian. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "If I were ever to come out of retirement, I'd want Roddy Piper as a tag partner." 2. Scotty the Body, PORTLAND: "Santana is quite a ladies' man. He's picked up quite a few women. Of course, he was in a soup kitchen when he did it." 3. Ventura, UC, on women wrestlers: "If they want to play lumberjack, they should carry their end of the log." 4. Hawk, NWA PRO: "Hey, DOOM. Our minds are gone. My liver is probably shot. We don't care!" 5. Steve Allen, WWF: "I've written lots of hit songs. But I'm so excited about being at WRESTLEMANIA 6, I can hardly compose myself." 6. Jim Cornette, WCW, to Jim Ross: "Jim, you blow up jogging your memory." 7. Terry Funk, WWW: "Crispy Cruiser rents video tapes & brings 'em back without rewinding them." 8. Marc Lowrance, USWA, on John Tatum's valet: "If I had a swing set like she's got, I'd never leave my backyard." 9. Ventura, WWF, on Bob Allen: "He wrestles about as good as Steve Allen performs." 10. Bobby Heenan, UC: "Zhukov bought a new car the other day. He needed more headroom."

11. Cornette, WCW: "The favorite occupation in Meridian is watching senior citizens wrinkle." 12. Terry Funk, PH, to Samoans: "`Tiny Bubbles' is your national anthem, isn't it?" 13. Funk/Fatu/Tonga, PH: (TONGA) "Lu-ku-weh-oo." (TF) "Lu-ku-weh-oo." (FATU) "You know what he just said? He said, `You're ugly & you've got bad breath. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA." 14. Duke Myers, CNWA, to Joe Aiolla: "My fantasy is to get you and Ed Whalen in the ring." 15. Heenan, UC: "Sapphire teaming with Dusty Rhodes makes that match a handicap." 16. Vince McMahon & Ventura, UC: (V) "There's a lot of things Chicken Little." (J) "...yeah, I'm sitting next to one." 17. Cornette, WCW: "Tom Zenk has sisters named Ruby, Sapphire and Pearl. His real name is Onyx because he was `onyxpected.'" 18. Jeff Jarrett, USWA: "About the only thing you can box, Travis, is a couple of apples & oranges." 19. Ross, WCW, to Corny: "All you need is a tent & you'll have a real revival." 20. Scotty/Don Coss, PORTLAND: (STB) "Kilo Santana..." (DC) "That's Ricky Santana." (STB) "No, it's Kilo. He's from Bogota, Colombia, isn't he?"

21. Samuel F. Kent, WVEU: "Boni, you can't bring them LPWA women up here. They'll be all over me." 22. Corny, WCW: "Pee Wee Anderson looks like a demented maitre 'd." 23. Heenan, UC: "Sapphire's getting in shape. She's added an extra dot." 24. Norman, WCW, on Abdullah: "If we can't beat 'em, he'll eat 'em." 25. Gorilla Monsoon/Heenan, UC: (GM) "You're throwing a baloney blowout?" (BH) "No...Sapphire's not coming." 26. Lowrance, USWA: "The problem is not with your television set but with the tights of Hollywood John Tatum."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Sting, WCW: "I won't be the same when I come back. I'll be even better." 2. Ross, PH: "The Steiners are the greatest brother combination in the history of wrestling." 3. Corny, WCW: "You can learn a lot from an incoherent lecture. Look at any political speech."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Vince McMahon, UC, on Chief Jay Strongbow: "Who's that fat guy with glasses?" 2. Heenan, UC: "Is that Sapphire swimming---or is it an oil barge?" 3. Norm/Ross, WCW: (NORM) "Can he (Abdullah) eat your wallet?" (ROSS) "That'd be a light meal." 4. Chris Cruise, WCW: "Did you know Lincoln wore a stove-top hat & Norman likes stove-top stuffing?" 5. Corny, WCW: "Have you ever seen an ear machine at a gym?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. BANTAM ROOSTER (Frank Sisson, CNWA, on J.T. Stringer) 2. KILO SANTANA (Scotty on Ricky Santana). 3. HOPALONG CASSIDY OF THE NWA (Corny on Sting).

BEST VOCALS - 1. Terry Funk, FUNK'S GRILL: "Tiny Bubbles." 2. Piper, WWF: "Swanee."

GORDON SOLIE LINE OF THE WEEK - McMahon, WWF: "...that remains to be seen."

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Corny, WCW: "DELUSIONATING."

BEST PICTURES - 1. USWA, Bill Dundee helping up old man who'd fallen in aisle during Jarrett-Travis angle. 2. UC, Sherri slugging Dusty. 3. PH, Gilbert suplexing Cactus on his head. 4. UC, Savage kneeing Sherri. 5. NWA PRO, Scott Steiner's Frankensteiner on Parker Pappas.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Garvin, NWA PRO: "Parker POPPAS." 2. Funk, WWW: "The British BRAWLER," instead of Battler.

BOO AWARD - Many CBS stations for failing to make up wrestling shows pre-empted by NCAA basketball tournament.

RIGHT ON AWARD - Dundee, USWA, for stopping in mid-angle to help the elderly man who had fallen in the aisle. Bill could have easily ignored the gentleman but he put a fan's safety above crowd heat. It was a heckuva gesture.

TUBE TALK

Some matches were good and some so-so but the WWF ULTIMATE CHALLENGE was a well-constructed commercial for WM6 and its two prime time airings were seen in 3.33 million homes. ....Big speculation is Vince McMahon will offer Superstar Graham a mike role. Graham is skedded to discuss steroids soon on DONAHUE....Jim Ross didn't watch much pro wrestling last weekend. He was in Toledo taping the finals of the World Cup International Freestyle Championships. It airs on a future U.S. OLYMPIC GOLD on TBS....Tony Schiavone's last official day at Titan is Friday....Iceman Parsons back on USWA syndie TV Saturday.

Artist Steve Leach is offering a limited edition lithograph of Kerry Von Erich for $50 and an unlimited edition print for $10. Write to Creative Artworks, Intl., P.O. Box 28754, Dallas TX 75228-0754....NWA piece on SATURDAY NIGHT WITH CONNIE CHUNG postponed for third time last week....Funk & Sting penciled for an upcoming spot on CNN's SONYA LIVE!. ....Joe Pedicino was booed by a few elderly ladies at the GAS tapings when Tim Dix flung a fit over being bumped from play-by-play. One yelled, "He was there before you were, Pedicino!"....Go back & freeze the Funk/Samoans expressions on POWER HOUR. They are hilarious.

The Caras/Mascaras/Sicodelico match on LUCHA LIBRE is the first instance the Rodriguez Brothers have teamed together, at least on TV....Hawk's loss to Butch Reed was his first on TV since 1984 upset by Tim Horner on WCW....Long-match day: only two bouts in the first WCW hour....Talk about contrasts: a fine Gilbert-Cactus on POWER HOUR but chants of bor-ring during Sullivan/Cactus-Cook/Knight WWW match.

A WEEKEND TO FORGET; A TIME TO REFLECT

> "There are days when you'll say to yourself, `Why did I ever decide to do this?'"
> ----DAVID W. RICHARDSON
> Former TV News Director

My wife told me long ago, "You're asking for trouble messing with wrestling." As always, she was right. As you may have deduced, recent days have been ones of soul-searching for us. A lot of it has stemmed from pressures I have put on myself and I accept sole responsbility for them.

Steve Beverly

As many of you are no doubt aware, one version of the world heavyweight championship was to have changed hands week before last. That switch was to have occurred in St. Louis, scene of 15 NWA belt changes through the years. The WCW office then advanced those plans to Chicago the night before. Ric Flair then invoked a reported clause in his contract and during the 25-minute intermission at U.I.C. Pavillion, vetoed the title loss.

In the hours surrounding the Chicago and St. Louis shows, one of the reasons cited for the belt not changing was me. To no one's surprise, particularly mine, several wrestlers have registered loud complaints about my recent work on Turner Home Entertainment's Wrestling Hotline. In short, I was accused of "telling everybody" the title was changing hands on the Hotline and 2) announcing that NWA MAIN EVENT would report live March 25 on the Flair-Luger St. Louis match. Answers to those accusations are: 1) no and 2) yes.

On the former, my Tuesday hotline editorial of March 20 predicted Luger would win in St. Louis because of "the tradition of St. Louis for wrestling history. Fifteen times through the years, the NWA title has changed hands there. Harley Race and Ric Flair each won one of their championships in St. Louis. It's where Gene Kiniski ended the final title reign of Lou Thesz. Lex Luger? If the gods of wrestling are on his side, he'll take home the NWA gold in St. Louis." My prediction was wrong, same as it was that Luger would win the Ironman at STARRCADE or that Dusty Rhodes would win the ROYAL RUMBLE. Further, my prediction was made knowing fully title changes often have eleventh-hour ways of falling through. Did I ever say it WOULD happen? No way.

Emotions became inflamed. I was excoriated. Did I, indeed, tell the world of this title change? Let me let you in on some things. In the week and a half leading up to March 24, I had phone calls from subscribers in nine different NWA cities where the group was on tour, many whom had never previously contacted me, to say, "You know they're changing the belt on the 24th, don't you?" I don't follow the NWA on tour. It doesn't take a genius to see the same information was being leaked on every stop of the tour, hence why so many press credentials requests for St. Louis.

When I agreed to do the 900 segment, I placed myself in a difficult spot. I've never been anything but honest with you folks. Is doing the Hotline a compromise? Absolutely. I am a broadcaster and when I was offered the spot, I tenuously agreed to do it because I wanted a chance to expand my horizons. It may, in the long run, prove to be a mistake.

When approached by T.H.E., I placed these conditions in writing, a copy of which is in my office files: 1) I would not compromise any criticisms or honesty about the NWA in MATWATCH; 2) I would not "shill" or lie for the NWA on the Hotline. Respecting the audience for that service, I have not gone on and discussed the real reason for Michael Hayes' hiatus; yet, I will not say he's missing because he "didn't show up for a broadcast." We have, however, told when WWF shows lead the TV ratings, same as we have when the NWA shows are on top; 3) T.H.E. wanted a serious journalism segment and pledged I would "not be muzzled;" 4) if after 90 days, either party was unhappy, we could end it with no hard feelings. Frankly, with no contractual ties, it could be done today.

It is no secret emotions are running high within WCW on multiple fronts: contract squabbles, people unhappy with management, management trying to control costs and ego and personality differences. Further, as my friend Steve Sims related after St. Louis, if there is one unifying belief among most wrestlers, it's that "sheets" are "killing the business." Yeah, the 19 known U.S. underground newsletters and two Canadian ones have killed so much that WCW raked in $250,000 worth of turnstile business March 23-25, one of its best weekends in the last 18 months.

But after last Friday night when the altered date of the title change did not transpire and accusations were hurled my way, I began receiving what most people consider harrassment. I took calls from within and outside the NWA camp, subjecting me to everything from blatant profanity to holding me outright responsible for the non-title switch. Later, for the third time in six weeks, attempts were made to decode my answering machine. Four weeks ago, I was advised by two sources the tampering was being done by a yet-to-be-identified WCW party in an effort to learn what wrestlers or inside personnel call me. Efforts to change the code have not stopped it. This time, my machine was decoded four times.

The final straw came when I awoke Sunday morning to hear a disguised voice, sounding like a whispering Randy Savage, warning me not to show for any NWA card in the near future "if you know what's good for you." I, for one, considered that an implied, if anonymous, threat.

Yes, it unnerved me. To the point that for a few days, I seriously considered abandoning MATWATCH and my entire interest in pro wrestling. I even faxed an offer of resignation from the 900 number. I stopped taking most calls and spent a lot of time in conference with people I trust, most of whom have no connection or interest in pro wrestling.

Then my unnerving shifted to anger. To suggest I said something I did not does not amuse me. To make me a scapegoat for one's internal problems is an act of desperation. It reminds me of former Columbus Mayor Harry Jackson accusing me of "fabricating" charges opponents would make against him when I confronted Jackson with them in news conferences. To infer I am the reason a championship did not change is a grossly inflated view of my power. I currently have 788 subscribers to MATWATCH. I dare say throngs have phoned the Hotline because promotion has been minimal. Only a miniscule number of wrestling ticketbuyers have heard of me or care who I am. A mere mention of my name surely wouldn't be sales pitch enough for me to call. The backlash directed at me via

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 7)

phone and behind my back began to resemble the bullying tactics Winston Lee and Neal Jacobson used to employ against lesser physical specimens when I was in the ninth grade.

No newsletter, no activity in life is worth this kind of barrage. However, after talking to a key mentor in my life through the last decade, whose advice is always prudent, my emotion began to shift almost---though not quite---to pity that people become so desperate to resort to threats and temperamental explosions. I haven't quite reached the comprehension, however, of false accusations. But as at least a half-dozen people have told me in the last week, "This isn't brain surgery. It's wrestling."

As I told Jim Herd last Wednesday, "If this company is such that a championship doesn't change hands because of one guy in Auburn, Alabama, I'm not sure what kind of shape it's in." First off, all of you know have common sense to realize how ludicrous the whole thing is. Second, if grown men have to resort to harrassment, we are in a sad state.

As I stated, I was cognizant opposition would surface against me from some of the NWA camp. If I have a disappointment, it is in the apparent vehement negative reaction of someone for whom I have offered perpetual and enthusiastic support and will continue to in this publication, as I have tremendous admmiration for this individual's work. However, I've had greater disappointments in life and it must go on.

I have a responsibility at least through the end of next March, financially, to you readers. I intend to honor that. Some of your calls of support have been most appreciated in the last week. I'm sorry there has not been time to acknowledge them all personally. But I have to admit this experience has been emotionally draining and has colored some of my zest for this industry. I don't make my livelihood from it. Nor am I obsessed with it. It is simply what has, to now, been a pleasurable diversion. Accordingly, I will likely take a few weeks to evaluate the long-term future of MATWATCH. This escapade has made me consider the effects of it on me and my family. Possibly, we may shorten subscription lengths to lessen overall financial obligation, should we reach the decision at a forthcoming point to slow down MATWATCH. We are developing a prototype for another type of entertainment newsletter not involving pro wrestling. Plus, I am beginning some preliminary research on what I would like to become a book on one of the most beloved television series of the 1950s. And I'm examining career options. However, for now, I am making tentative plans for a smaller, perhaps 50-page, special late-summer annual-length edition which would review 20 of our best columns and update each situation, along with possibly another Wrestling Broadcasting System schedule. They're not rid of me yet.

In journalism, you know you're going to take a battering now and then. I still remember my first angry caller in 1975. My question, however, is: in this case, was it necessary? I think not. Remember, this isn't brain surgery.

RATINGS RAP

CABLE

Week Ending March 26	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/24)	3.3	6.8	1.71 million
WWF ULT. CHALLENGE (Sun) (USA 3/25)	3.3	4.9	1.7 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/25)	3.2	6.2	1.66 million
WWF ULT. CHALLENGE (Mon) (USA 3/26)	3.2	4.6	1.63 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/25)	2.4	6.8	1.25 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 3/23)	1.5	2.5	810,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 3/24)	1.1	8.3	594,000

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending March 11)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	9.1/246	9.3/248	9.7
NWA	7.4/173	7.3/173	7.8

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADA) $6 for 7 issues, $19 for 26 issues, $36 for 1 year.

(OVERSEAS) $10 for 7, $36 for 26, $65 for 1 year.

(GIFT BONUS) For every 7-issue set you give, you receive 2 bonus issues, up to a maximum of 13 in one year.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Please PRINT clearly.

MATWATCH
213 PINE HILLS AVE.
AUBURN AL 36830

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUBURN AL
PERMIT NO. 123

David Skolnick
90 W. Main St. #5
Governeur, NY 13642

5/7/90

FIRST CLASS MAIL